

As a proud resident, I believe this acquisition will have a negative effective on innovation in the wireless industry, decrease choices available to consumers and eliminate jobs.

If this takeover is allowed to occur, AT&T and Verizon will control nearly 80 percent of the wireless industry revenues. Furthermore, eliminating T-Mobile would remove one of the country's leading value-oriented nationwide carriers. It is rigorous competition, not a marketplace dominated by a duopoly, that drives companies to use their technological expertise to improve and advance their service.

The proposed takeover will eliminate stores, jobs, back offices and marketing spending. This is not only a loss of jobs for T-Mobile and AT&T workers, but for every business with ties to the wireless telecoms industry.

The takeover of T-Mobile by AT&T would eliminate the competitive market forces that help regulate price and encourage innovation, putting the smaller and regional carriers at the mercy of the duopolists. It would also further leverage AT&T's control over backhaul and special access services, which are critical inputs to providing mobile broadband service. Rural, small and regional GSM carriers would be forced to deal with a GSM monopoly: the new bigger AT&T.